Recruitment to Indian Statistical Service

2104. SHRI RAM NARESH SINGH: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons recruited to the Indian Statistical Service during the last three years, yearwise;

(b) whether the Government have taken any decison to abolish the Indian Statistical Service; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The entry grade to the Indian Statistical Service is Gr. IV of the Service (pay scale--Rs. 2200-4000). 166 officers have been appointed to this Grade on promotion from the feeder posts w.e.f. 1-10-90 in terms of a Supreme Court order. No direct recruitment could be made to this grade during the years 1988, 1989 and 1990. However, the UPSC will be conducting examination in 1991, for direct recruitment to this grade of the Service.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Demolition of Housing Clusters of Bhopal Gas Victims

2105. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as many as 60,000 Bhopal gas victims have been removed in May-June, 1991 by the local municipal authorites from their residential areas to the outskirts of the city;

(b) whether the houses of more than 5,000 gas victims had been demolished and their occupants have been rendered shelterless;

(c) whether the demolition was stopped by the Supreme Court of India on the ground that any interference with the existing housing clusters of the gas affected people would amount to interference with the due process of law; and

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have taken notice of these demolitions and advised the State Goernment not to interfere with the housing clusters of the gas affected people in Bhopal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a), (b) and (d) Municipal Administration is the concern of the State Government. According to the Government of Madhya Pradesh, the District administration of Bhopal has relocated 959 families from Rethghat, Sakir Nagar and Shajid Nagar to stop the pollution of the Upper Lake in April & June, 1991. These families have been settled in a systematic way on plots size of 15 ft. × 20 ft. in Gandhi Nagar, Badhwaj, Bagh Farat Afza, Abbas Nagar and Durga Nagar.

(c) The information is being collected from the Government of Madhya Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Price Fixation of Pot. Penicillin G-First Crystals

2107. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the norms submitted by various drug manufacturing companies for price fixation of Pot, Penicillin G-First Crystals, have been grossly inflated leading to higher price fixation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to make the data public; and

(d) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA

MOHAN): (a) to (d) The price of Potasium Penicillin G-first Crystals has been fixed on the basis of cost-cum technical study conducted by BICP of the cost structure of M/s. HAL, M/s. IDPL, M/s. Alembic and M/s. Standard Pharmaceuticals. Prices of all bulk drugs are fixed on the basis of similar cost-cum-technical studies which are of confidential nature and it is not in public interest to disclose these. As per BICP Report strain employed and the technology adopted differs from manufacturer to manufacturer thereby resulting in variation in raw materials and their quantities.

Expansion of Rajasthan Desert

2108. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan desert has been expanding particularly towards Haryana and Delhi;

(b) the estimated area of the land which has turned into desert during the last decade;

(c) whether the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has developed methods for controlling the movement of the desert;

(d) whether the Government have introduced any programme for desert control as distinct from desert development; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) On the basis of the past 25 years' research work conducted by Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur, it is found that there is no indication of expansion of Thar Desert towards Haryana and Delhi.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. However, the Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is conducting studies in monitoring of desertification process through resource surveys.

(d) and (e) There is no other specific programme for controlling expansion of desert in Rajasthan. However, the following programmes under implementation in Rajasthan are likely to control the desertification process:

(1) *National Watershed Development Programme for rainfed Areas (NWDPRA)*: This project was launched in Rajasthan in 1986 and during 7th Plan this was implemented in 104 watersheds covering 43,333 hectares in 16 districts at a cost of Rs. 5.10 crores. During 8th Plan, 188 watersheds at a rate of 1 in each block in 27 districts covering an area of 3.4 lakh hectares have been targeted for development at a cost of Rs. 135.98 crores. During 1990-92, Rs. 9.25 crores have been released for the development of identified watersheds.

(2) *Afforestation programmes under various schemes*: The total area covered under various central and state plan schemes including the World Bank aided social forestry project in Rajasthan during the Seventh Five Year Plan is 2.84 lakh hectares. Total expenditure under all these schemes is Rs. 125.79 crores. Total financial assistance provided to Rajasthan under various centrally sponsored afforestation schemes/programmes during 1990-91 and 1991-92 is Rs. 10.49 crores.

Telecast/Broadcast of Programmes on Abul Kalam Azad During His Centenary Year

2109. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of programmes on Abul Kalam Azad broadcast/telecast by AIR and Doordarshan respectively during his centenary year; and

(b) the duration of language of each programme broadcast/telecast, radio station-wise and TV centre-wise?